



The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

April 2026

Volume 32 Issue 4



The *Jersey Broadcaster* is distributed to members of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club via email as a PDF file. Back issues of many of our newsletters are available on the club's website:

www.njarc.org/broadcaster/

Meeting Notice

Our April meeting will be held at at InfoAge on Friday 4/10 The meeting will be held in Bowen Hall, Princeton University. This month's will be another "Show and Tell / Hints & Kinks" session hosted by you, the members. Bring in something interesting from your collection and share it's story with the club. Or give us a demo of a favorite troubleshooting or repair "kink" you have discovered along the way. Have anything to sell? Bring it to the meeting. Someone is always looking for something.

Meeting Review

Our March meeting was held at InfoAge, where Joe Divito overcame some 'technical difficulties' to offer his presentation about Silver Mica Disease in receiver IF stages. Special thanks to Matt Reynolds who 'just in time' to prevent the feature presentation from being cancelled, located a large flatscreen TV to take the place of the club's video projector which had gone missing.

The meeting was livestreamed on our YouTube channel and an on-demand recording is available for viewing at www.youtube.com/njarc along with many other past meetings.

Calendar of Events

April 10: NJARC monthly meeting, Princeton U.

April 17: HARPS meeting, Suffern NY

April 24-26: Marconi Day, InfoAge

April 25: NJARC Repair Clinic, InfoAge

May 1-3: Early Television Convention, Hilliard Ohio

May 8-9: Kutztown Radio Show

May 15: NJARC monthly meeting, InfoAge

May 22: HARPS meeting, Suffern NY

June 12: NJARC monthly meeting, Princeton U.

July 10: NJARC monthly meeting, Princeton U.

July 25: Summer Hamfest/Swapmeet, Infoage

August 14: NJARC monthly meeting, Princeton U.

August 22: NJARC Repair Clinic, InfoAge

September 11: NJARC monthly meeting, InfoAge

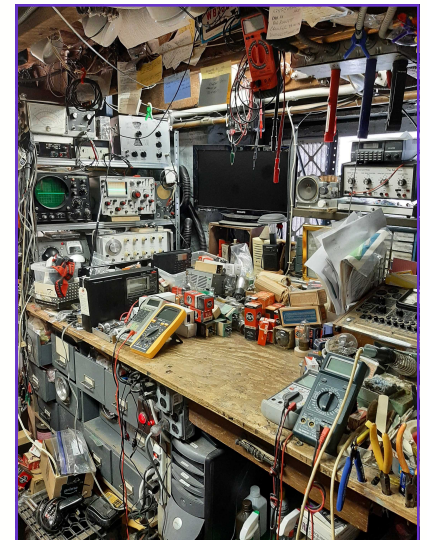
From the President's Workbench

Greetings Fellow Enthusiasts!

On Sunday March 15th, we had our Spring Hamfest Swapmeet Show at the Parsippany PAL building in Parsippany, N. J..Yes, Sunday, which was a slight change from our traditional scheduling. I was told there were no Saturday openings available to our club within the month of March. So I took a chance and agreed to Sunday the 15th. On quizzing vendors and buyers, most said the day change would not be a problem. Being a Sunday, most traffic did not exist except for the "Pot Hole" crews!

We suffered too many vendor cancellations and these were not due to the day change. Colds and fevers were the reasons I heard from many potential vendors. So our sellers were a bit "light" but there were no empty tables since I instructed vendors to "spread out" and they did so happily.

The "Gate Count" (the number of attending buyers) was strong as usual. I continued to see happy buyers going out and then coming back for more! Items priced right sold quickly. Items not priced correctly, went home with the vendor. Matt Reynolds had acquired a collection of radios and related items



The President's Workbench.

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THE JERSEY BROADCASTER is the newsletter of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club (NJARC) which is dedicated to preserving the history and enhancing the knowledge of radio and related disciplines. Dues are \$25 per year and meetings are held on the second Friday of each month either at InfoAge or at Princeton University. Neither the editor nor NJARC is liable for any other use of the contents of this publication other than for information.

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President's Workbench

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from a neighborhood cleanout and was kind enough to donate all of the proceeds from his "Club Table" to our club.

It was nice to see a returning vendor and YouTuber Fred Buchner (FredRadio <https://www.youtube.com/@ko2fjb>) and his YouTube buddy ScoutCrafter (<https://www.youtube.com/@ScoutCrafter>) returning to our show. BTW, ScoutCrafter made an in-depth video of our show with all the "goodies" he purchased which he intends to restore on his channel. You can see his video here: <https://youtu.be/el7xKqPqRjk>. And don't miss our own RadioWild's video of the show <https://youtu.be/RPGO2f2YAjQ>.

Again, I want to thank: Lady Judith, Fred, Jerry, Matt, Paul, Vince, Darren and ARRL Assistant Hudson Division Director Nomar Vizcarrondo, for making our Spring Show a memorable event!

— Richard Lee, Pres. NJARC



Lady Judith and Jerry waiting for the hordes to rush in



DVHRC's Jarret Brown joined our show

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President's Workbench (Continued)



You meet the nicest people at an NJARC Show!
Frank & Jean



Matt selling at his Club Table



Jack Knott



Don Maurer and his Daughter

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President's Workbench (Continued)



Jon Butz-Fiscina



Tony's Capacitor Corner

YouTube Links

- When Radios Smelled Like Burnt Dust — How GE Solved It in 1930 https://youtu.be/PI46AZA_sZU
- The 1958 Forgotten High School Teen Who Invented Speech-To-Text <https://youtu.be/ol9ozre--NY>
- The Maven of Audio Snake Oil, Peter Aczel (1926-2017) <https://youtu.be/W4q2qgDxKQg>
- What really happened to Telefunken? <https://youtu.be/KkPM9ev6CY4>
- NJARC 15th Anniversary Video <https://youtu.be/hCclcPvWncY>
- 2026 New Jersey Antique Radio Club Meet - Vintage Radios and Electrical Oddities. <https://youtu.be/el7xKqPgRjk>
- NJARC Throwback Thursday Playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/@njarc/playlists>
- The Surprising Need for Mint Condition Tube TVs: <https://youtu.be/S8wAEqGSVPM>
- CONELRAD The Nuclear Attack Radio System: <https://youtu.be/ObEzu3SY6jk>

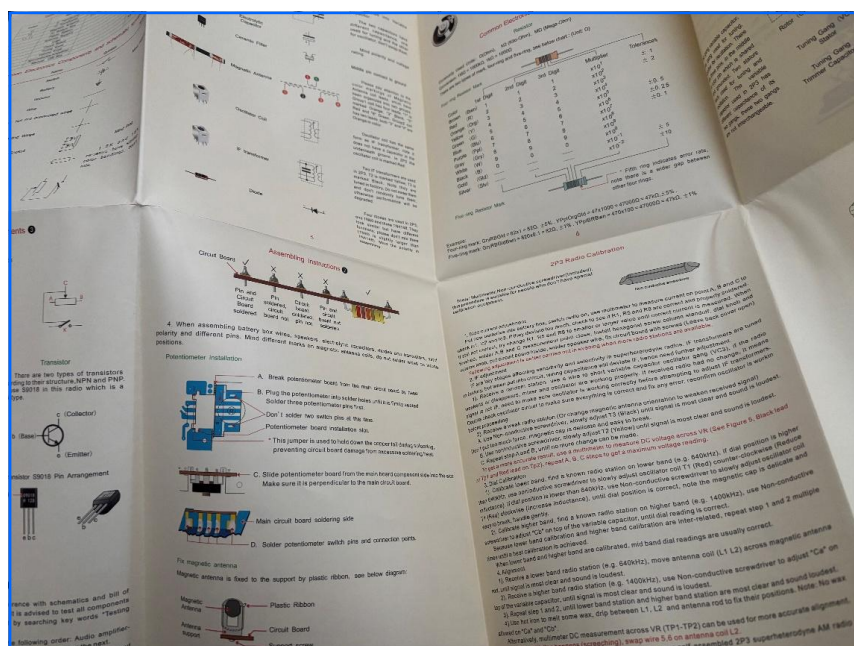
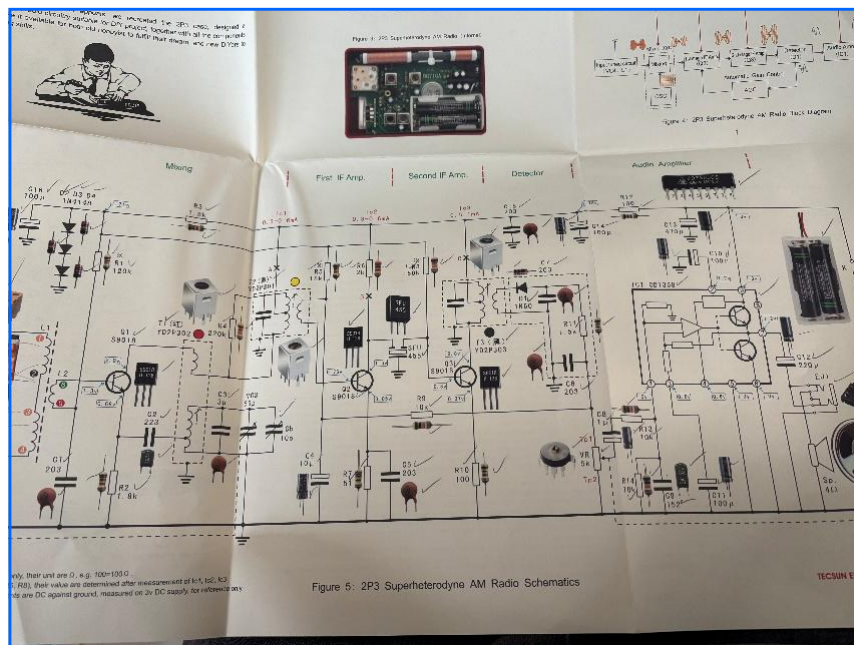
Share your links to radio-related YouTube videos on the NJARC Communicator and we'll publish them here!

Adventure in Building a Modern Radio Kit — Part 2

By Joe Divito (Continued from previous issue)

Eyeing up the assembly instructions, I can say it wasn't bad, thankfully in well-translated English! For the most part, the build process was a good experience, though the instructions could have been better. The sheet folded out into an oversized sheet of paper, reminding me of unfolding an old school road map! They recommended you sort out your parts and start working from the audio section backwards towards the antenna/tuning section of the circuit. You were presented with an illustrated schematic, with actual pictures of each part next to its place in the schematic. I found the best approach was do as they suggested, which meant working right to left across the schematic, and checking off each part as I found it and soldered onto the circuit board. I have had several years experience with soldering, but if you are a newcomer, they even thought to include a brief tutorial in soldering. I thought that was a nice touch.

Here are some views of what I'm talking about with the instructions:



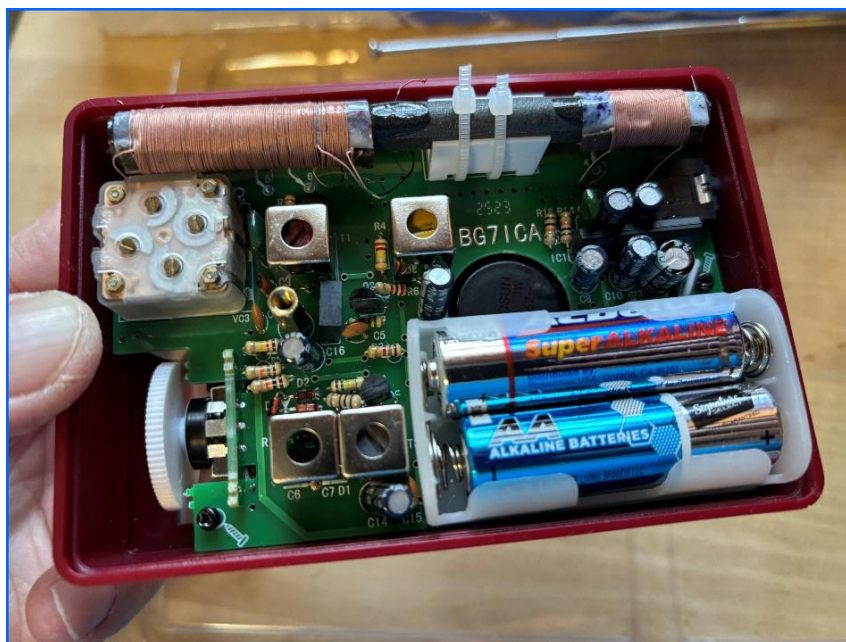
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Adventure in Building a Modern Radio Kit — Part 2

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Overall, the radio went together rather easily, though I found the oversized instruction sheet annoying, having to constantly flip it around to absorb everything I needed to know as I worked my way through construction. This was a shared annoyance that others noted, and although not a deal breaker, it was one area TECSUN could do differently to make a good experience a great one.

One other oddity that I quickly had to deal with (and was also called out by others who built this kit), is the way the volume pot is installed. TECSUN's design has a "daughter" circuit board you have to snap off the main board, mount the volume pot, then slide the daughter board vertically into a slot on the main board. It took me a few re-readings to wrap my head around it, and thankfully, I got it right on the first try. You have to solder the pot's terminals in the right order (the three inner terminals, but not the power switch's part's two outer ones), mount the whole thing in the board, and once you're satisfied with the positioning, solder the two outer terminals along with the traces coming off the volume pot onto the main board. It seems they are relying on the strength of your solder as the only thing holding everything in place. To be safe, I embedded some scrap wire leads into the solder job to give it some added strength. You also have to make sure you slide it in the right way (so the traces line up between the daughter and main board). I wish the instructions were clearer and gave a few drawings step-by-step for this. Here's how the volume pot is supposed to sit once you have it installed:



One other place where things went a little off the rails was assembly of the case and hooking up the speaker. I had to go by the exploded drawing, and it wasn't obvious until I had already gone down the rabbit hole that I had made a few mistakes in the assembly. I accidentally routed the power wires from the battery case through one of the mount holes for the second screw that holds the battery box to the board. I had to desolder the battery wires and get that other screw in there, then figured out how to snake the wires through to their solder points on the board underneath. They didn't have a clearly marked way the battery wires go through to the bottom of the board. The other mistake I made was not realizing until it was too late that I had to solder the speaker wires to the speaker **before** mounting the board into the case. The speaker is held behind a plate that mounts on the front of the radio, and there are screws that hold the speaker/front panel assembly that are inaccessible as soon as you screw down the circuit board. Needless to say, all of these mistakes (and frustration) would have been avoided if TECSUN had just given step-by-step instructions for how to assemble the case and mount the completed board.

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Adventure in Building a Modern Radio Kit — Part 2

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Had I not discovered this site, I would have still been “blessing” the writer of the case assembly instructions (aka the exploded drawing and no instructions) and guessing how to route the wires through the board: <https://ag6qr.net/index.php/2017/03/07/tecsun-2p3-final-assembly/> (I wish I found this guy’s site before I tried to do the final assembly).

One final “gotcha” I should call out has to do with a quirk I have seen from all of the Chinese radio kits (it’s not unique to TECSUN). There are several places on the circuit board where they intentionally have a break in the trace. The idea is to place your multimeter’s leads on either side of each breakpoint, and on the current measurement setting, measure the current drawn across that section of the circuit. The instructions give the testing order and required current draw for each section. If all measures well, you’re supposed to solder over the breaks and complete the circuit. Presumably, this is so you can verify you did each section correctly. I ignored the whole squirrely thing (I didn’t have a multimeter that could measure current down to milliamps anyway) and bridged all of the breaks over up front so I wouldn’t forget about them later. I took the approach that I would just be extra vigilant to match each part against their schematic, and if all else fails, troubleshoot any problems in a more traditional way. It’s easy to forget about these silly circuit breaks, so I want to make sure everyone is aware of them.

When I was done, it was time to fire it up. To my surprise, it was picking up stations all across the dial without even doing the required alignment. After reading the alignment instructions (which were well written and clearly explained the order to go about things), I fired up my TinySA signal generator and went at it. In about 20 minutes, I was rewarded with a great sounding radio that was picking up stations 100 miles away (in the daytime!) and filling the whole room with sound with less than ¼ turn of the volume! I have a couple of quality vintage transistor radios, made by Zenith (the RE-10, how I wound up with two examples of the same model is a story for another article). This kit radio performs as well, and very close to the mighty Zenith RE-10 in sound quality. It took a few hours before I could enjoy my brand-new radio because of one final quirk in the kit. There’s a decorative front panel that covers the tuning dial and volume knob. TECSUN is mute on how you’re supposed to get that panel to stay in place! It doesn’t snap on, and there are no screws to hold it in. I resorted to a little clear liquid electric tape (my go-to for glueing anything near electronics) to hold it in place. After an overnight wait, it reached full adhesive strength, and I was ready to go—just in time for the Super Bowl (I listened to the pregame show on this little TECSUN radio).

Here is a picture of this cute little radio in final form. I love the red & white case and the retro look:



In conclusion, I would highly recommend this kit. It is definitely not for someone who’s never worked with electronics and definitely requires some understanding of how to do an alignment to get the best out of it. However, with surprisingly little work, I was rewarded by a great sounding and incredibly performing little radio. It is definitely NOT a city radio, but something I feel I could enter into a DX contest and give everyone a real run for their money!